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Mexico

Poultry and Products

GOM Establishes New Import Requirements for Newcastle Disease and Poultry Meat for Further Processing

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Report Highlights:

The Government of Mexico has banned the importation of poultry from California following the detection of Newcastle disease. In addition, Newcastle certification requirements have been established for other areas of the United States. A veterinarian must now accompany shipments of uncooked poultry meat for further processing after crossing the border in Mexico.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Mexico [MX1], [MX]

Veterinarians to Accompany Imported Poultry Meat for Processing

Mexico's Secretariat of Agriculture (SAGARPA) has modified its zoosanitary import requirements (Hoja de Requisitos) for fresh and frozen poultry imported for further processing. These shipments must now be accompanied by a SAGARPA certified veterinarian from the border crossing point to an approved meat processing plant. All costs associated with the veterinarian's services will be borne by the importer. It is not yet clear why this new requirement is being imposed.

New Requirements for Newcastle Disease

In addition, SAGARPA has specified new import requirements relating to Newcastle Disease. In a letter to the U.S. Animal Plant and Health Inspection Service (APHIS) dated December 19, 2003, SAGARPA indicated that imports of live poultry, poultry products, and poultry by-products from the U.S. state of California will be prohibited until APHIS provides information on Newcastle control measures in California.

Additionally, SAGARPA will now require the following statement concerning Newcastle Disease on U.S. health certificates until February 20, 2003.

"The entire consignment of meat comes from birds which have been kept in an establishment free from New Castle disease and not situated in a New Castle disease infected zone and which have been slaughtered in an approved abattoir not situated in a New Castle disease infected zone and have been subjected to antemortem and postmortem inspections for Newcastle disease with favorable results."

Comment: While the statement above refers to meat, the letter from SAGARPA indicates that it is required for both live poultry and meat.

After February 20, 2003, the following certifications will be required according to SAGARPA.

1. For fighting birds, wild birds, singing birds, and ornamental birds

"That the chicks proceed from a farm that has a 35 bird monitoring program beginning at any age, using the viral isolation and velogenic strain identification tests and interbrain pathogenic index test in one-day old chicks; and these tests are carried out every three to four months, obtaining Newcastle Disease Velogenic presentation negative results. The samples will correspond to a cloacal swab and/or tracheal swab."

2. For broiler chicks

"That the chicks proceed from a farm that has a 70 bird monitoring program beginning at the age of 12 days, using the viral isolation and velogenic strain identification tests and interbrain pathogenic index test in one-day old chicks; and is carried out for each lot that enters a farm, obtaining Newcastle Disease Velogenic presentation negative results. At least 10 samples will be from live birds or organs and the rest (60) will be cloacal or tracheal swabs."

3. For chick progenitors

"That the chicks proceed from a farm that has a 35 bird monitoring program that began after the age of 20 weeks, using the viral isolation and velogenic strain identification test and interbrain pathogenic test in one-day old chicks; and is carried

out every three to four months, obtaining Newcastle Disease Velogenic presentation negative results. At least 10 samples will be from live birds or samples from the trachea, lung, spleen, encephalo or cecal tonsils and the rest (25) will be cloacal or tracheal swabs."

4. For poultry meat, meat products, and by-products

"That the product comes from flocks that have a 70 bird monitoring program which began after the age of 12 days, using viral isolation and velogenic strain identification tests and interbrain pathogenic index test in one-day old chicks; and is carried out on each lot entering a particular farm, obtaining Newcastle Disease velogenic presentation negative results."

In addition to the import requirements outlined in this report, imports of cooked poultry meat are now subject to a listeria testing requirement (see MX2168 for details), and imports of fresh poultry for direct consumption are subject to the hemagglutination inhibition test if shipped beyond the 20 km border zone or Cancun. Imports of uncooked poultry from the states of Texas, California, Maine, Virginia, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, and West Virginia continue to be banned because of the detection of Avian Influenza during 2002.

Disclaimer: In the event of a discrepancy or discrepancies in the English translation of the SAGARPA letter, the original SAGARPA letter shall prevail.